United Nations E/2007/5

Economic and Social Council Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.: General
28 November 2006

Original: English

Substantive session of 2007
Geneva, 2-27 July 2007
Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

Joint Report to the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

Summary

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have prepared this report in compliance with General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. For the second time, the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA present a joint report on progress towards implementing resolution 59/250, in accordance with the request from Member States for greater harmonization and coordination. In the report, UNDP and UNFPA outline their cooperation both jointly and as part of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). The report is organized in three sections: section I provides information on the joint implementation by UNDP and UNFPA of resolution 59/250; section II provides information on UNDP activities; and section III provides information on UNFPA activities. The report concludes with section IV, a recommendation to the Executive Board to take note of the report and to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council, together with comments and guidance provided by delegations.

06-63258 (E) 131206

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I. Joint UNDP/UNFPA section

A. Implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review

Capacity development

1. In July 2006, the UNDG programme group provided guidance to resident coordinators and United Nations country teams on how to mainstream capacity development in national development strategies through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. Based on feedback from United Nations country teams, the UNDG task team on capacity development, in which both UNDP and UNFPA participate, is finalizing a position statement on capacity development. The position statement includes a matrix of optional United Nations roles in mainstreaming capacity development as well as an inventory of tools available in the United Nations system.

2. Using this position statement, UNFPA expects to complete in 2006 its national capacity development strategy. Based on country experiences as well as the UNDG matrix on capacity development, the strategy will: (a) assist national counterparts in assessing the national capacity that is necessary to develop and maintain population programmes; (b) prioritize ways to fill gaps; and (c) support monitoring and learning as part of results-based management. The UNDP and UNFPA partnership on the harmonized approach to cash transfers analyses the gaps and needs in the management capacity of implementing national partners and seeks to address them, in collaboration with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

3. UNDP work in capacity development focused on two goals: (a) mainstreaming capacity assessments and strategies into the Millennium Development Goal support services programme; and (b) developing evidence-based policy guidance on key cross-cutting elements of capacity development strategies. For the first goal, UNDP has integrated capacity diagnostic expertise into the Millennium Development Goal teams in the Asia and the Pacific and the Africa regions to ensure that Millennium Development Goal-based national development strategies, including needs assessments and policy choices, reflect capacity assets and gaps. For the second goal, UNDP is articulating seven priority strategies for capacity development within its overall capacity development policy. This work covers capacity diagnostics, knowledge services and learning, leadership development, institutional reform and change management, multi-stakeholder engagement processes, mutual accountability mechanisms and incentive systems. The work of UNDP in strengthening national capacity to manage aid in the context of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness is also reflected in policy guidance on aid management and aid management instruments; on capacity development of national procurement systems; and in direct budget support and sector-wide approaches.

4. During the past year, UNFPA initiated a process of consultation with Member States to regionalize its operations. One of the motivating factors for the proposed regionalization is to leverage technical expertise to develop capacity in the countries and regions UNFPA serves by strengthening technical support to country offices and government partners. By combining existing regional technical capacity with the UNFPA Technical Advisory Programme, UNFPA seeks to anchor technical capacity-building in regional experiences as well as in global best practices. This will ensure that the capacity-building initiatives in UNFPA programming are coordinated, coherent and region-specific.

5. South-South cooperation is an important element of the UNFPA strategy on capacity development. UNFPA is developing an inventory of South-based expertise in population issues, which it will make available to all countries.

Information technology and knowledge sharing

6. In order to support the development of global knowledge sharing and networking among United Nations agencies on the Millennium Development Goals, the UNDG is developing a policy network that will bring together the expertise of the United Nations system and other partners to support countries in implementing Millennium Development Goal-based national development strategies. The UNDG has set up a network of United Nations system colleagues on knowledge networking, in which both UNDP and UNFPA participate. Over 10 United Nations organizations are now building on the UNDP model of knowledge networks. Several global networks have been established in the areas of human rights and debt management. UNDP and UNFPA are working with the knowledge management working groups in the UNDG and in the United Nations Chief Executives' Board. UNDP is working with several of the United Nations regional economic and social commissions to develop new approaches to knowledge sharing to support the Millennium Development Goals. UNDP is also preparing a knowledge management and communications strategy to support the Millennium Development Goals, initially in 18 countries.

Simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures, transaction costs and efficiency

7. Through active participation in the UNDG, UNDP and UNFPA continued efforts to simplify and harmonize their processes and procedures to reduce transaction costs for themselves and for their national partners. With regard to the common country programming process, a recent independent review revealed that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework has contributed to this goal, although much still remains to be done. The ongoing revision of the guidelines for the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework is facilitating these improvements by strengthening national ownership as well as alignment with and involvement in national development plans and processes, and better positioning the United Nations in the new aid environment.

8. In response to paragraph 49 of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and in order to better align United Nations programming instruments with national planning processes, the UNDG developed a proposal to simplify the programming process and programming tools. The proposal called for combining several programming instruments (the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the results matrix, the country programme documents and the country programme action plans) into a single, consolidated United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The heads of the UNDG Executive Committee agencies agreed to submit a joint proposal to their respective Executive Boards to revise the approval process of their agency-specific contributions to the consolidated United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in accordance with the UNDG proposal. In September 2006, the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF adopted a decision to shorten the time frame for country programme approval (UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board decision 2006/36 and UNICEF Executive Board decision 2006/19).

9. To facilitate the work of United Nations country teams, the UNDG working group on programme policy is developing a manual on programme policies for the United Nations system and is updating the learning kit on the common country programming process.

10. UNFPA has been actively engaged in sector-wide approaches and has contributed to sector funding baskets in several countries. As a follow up to the Paris High-level Forum on Joint Progress toward Enhanced Aid Effectiveness, UNFPA issued internal guidelines on engagement in sector-wide approaches and poverty reduction strategies, and is strengthening its internal guidance on the new aid environment.

11. UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF presented to the annual sessions 2006 of their respective Executive Boards a joint report on their experiences in implementing joint programming and joint programmes since 2004 (DP/2006/33-DP/FPA/2006/11 and E/ICEF/2006/13 and Add.1). The UNDG is reviewing the guidance note on joint programming to reflect recent changes. One such change is the 2006 UNDG management group endorsement of the proposal to harmonize cost-recovery rates for UNDG Executive Committee agencies participating in multi-donor trust funds, joint programmes and joint offices. The UNDG is providing support through joint programme training and learning modules on programme and operational issues. In 2006, the UNDG Executive Committee agencies developed and deployed to their country offices a harmonized, joint programme reporting format for donors. The UNDG established a joint programme database utilizing information provided by country offices and headquarters on more than 300 joint programmes. It also conducted a review and collated lessons learned from joint programme development and implementation in 14 countries as a key input for the 2006 revision of the joint programming guidance note.

12. In January 2006, the United Nations established the first joint United Nations office – the Office of United Nations funds and programmes in Cape Verde. By the end of 2006, the UNDG will conduct an inter-agency review of the Cape Verde experience to provide information on progress and challenges, and to build on lessons learned in the first year. The lessons learned from the joint office initiative will enable the UNDG Executive Committee agencies to implement the initiative more effectively. Though the joint office was originally thought to be more appropriate for countries with modest United Nations operations, larger countries such as Viet Nam have come forward. The joint office initiative in Viet Nam is progressing rapidly. The challenge is to find different models to meet different country situations, a task that has now been assigned to the Boston Consulting Group.

13. The recommendations of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment are expected to provide a major momentum to increase coherence and effectiveness at the country level.

Coherence, effectiveness and relevance of operational activities for development

Common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework

14. The UNDG is seeking to further improve guidelines and training on the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The proposed revisions to the guidelines are expected to: (a) enhance the participation of non-resident agencies; (b) strengthen country ownership; (c) enhance engagement in poverty reduction strategies; and (d) provide criteria to determine when a separate common country assessment is the most appropriate United Nations contribution to analytical work in a country. UNDP and UNFPA are also working to improve the alignment of their country programmes with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, within the current common country programming process.

15. To improve inter-agency collaboration, UNDP and UNFPA have encouraged the participation of the United Nations specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions in the common country programming process, thereby capitalizing on their comparative advantages and enriching the quality of the common country assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. The regional economic commissions are providing data and analyses to United Nations country teams. Country analytical work has become a responsibility that is shared with both national and international development partners.

16. Recognizing the importance of ensuring the quality of the common country programming process, UNFPA has increased the level, quality and intensity of its participation in all stages of the country

programming process – in the United Nations country teams; in the regional directors' teams; in the country programme support group and in other UNDG working groups. UNFPA seeks to leverage its comparative advantage in the areas of data, gender, reproductive and sexual health, and population and development.

Resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams

17. As called for in General Assembly resolution 59/250, the UNDG has developed a mutual performance appraisal system for resident coordinators and United Nations country teams. The performance appraisal system reinforces resident coordinator and United Nations accountability for the resident coordinator system. It supports the authority of the resident coordinator as the principal United Nations representative in a country, while recognizing the mandates and representational needs of each member of the United Nations country team. The UNDG is launching globally a pilot programme for a web-based, reciprocal 180 degree assessment tool for resident coordinators and United Nations country team members, which it will implement in 2007. The UNDG is also refining the job description and accountability framework for resident coordinators.

18. Beginning in 2006, the resident coordinator induction programme has included representatives from and partnership with relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies. The UNDG is undertaking efforts to improve the quality of resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator candidates; the gender and regional balance; the selection process; training; and resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator capacity through strengthened professional staff support. At the regional level, dedicated support by the regional directors' teams will further strengthen the resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams. UNDP is redoubling its efforts to introduce country directors in countries with large and medium-sized United Nations country teams.

19. The UNDG working group on common premises and services continued to guide and assist United Nations country teams in establishing United Nations houses and United Nations common premises. Proposed projects include the construction of new premises; the renovation or alteration of existing premises; and more complex projects, such as 'design, build, operate and transfer arrangements' with developers. There are currently 36 projects worldwide. In order to encourage the sharing of office premises at the subnational level, the UNDG took an inventory of the subnational offices of each UNDG Executive Committee agency. To better manage the common premises and services programme, the UNDG rolled out a common services management system in 22 countries.

Gender

20. In October 2006, the UNDG reviewed and made recommendations to improve the gender equality accountability mechanisms of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and the International Labour Organization. The review examined key strategy documents (such as the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) and reports to the respective Executive Boards and to the Economic and Social Council) to analyse the extent to which these documents included gender-related targets and indicators. The study also analysed reporting, evaluation and audit functions; staff performance appraisal; and development and budget functions. The review included an analysis of a number of indicator systems and scorecards on gender equality and other areas.

21. UNDP and UNFPA have played important roles in the UNDG and at the national level on gender mainstreaming, as individual entities and in the context of the resident coordinator system. UNDP facilitated the first-ever United Nations country team harmonized reporting on the status of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to the thirty-sixth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in August 2006.

22. UNDP has responded positively to the findings and recommendations of the 2005 independent evaluation of gender mainstreaming in UNDP. The findings and recommendations are included in the corporate gender action plan, 2006-2007, which the Executive Board endorsed at its first regular session 2006. The gender action plan responds to the four "Cs", which are the main concerns of the evaluation: (a) commitment and accountability; (b) capacity; (c) communication and visibility; and (d) core resources. UNDP relies on the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), its associated fund, for technical services in areas where UNIFEM has expertise and capacity, especially at the regional level.

23. Through its corporate strategy, UNFPA also seeks to build a stronger internal accountability system and to enhance its capacity to improve programming on gender mainstreaming. In collaboration with UNIFEM, UNFPA developed capacity-building tools on gender budgeting for reproductive rights and other gender-related priorities, to ensure that sufficient budget allocations are available to implement national gender-equality policies and programmes.

24. In 2006, UNFPA responded to emerging issues such as international migration, focusing on female migrants and gender-based violence, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

25. Because women's leadership is critical to advancing reproductive rights, UNFPA continues to support women's networks, including women parliamentarians, women's rights groups and indigenous people's movements to implement the recommendations of the ten-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action. UNFPA is also one of the founding members of a global initiative, the Women Leaders Intercultural Forum, which brings together women leaders to advance the role of women in promoting intercultural understanding and fosters inter-generational partnerships to groom young women leaders.

South-South cooperation

26. Following Executive Board endorsement of the third UNDP cooperation framework for South-South cooperation, 2005-2007, UNDP has worked to promote South-South cooperation throughout the United Nations system. An analysis of data on South-South cooperation submitted by country offices suggests that in Africa, South-South cooperation is most prominent in efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and to support democratic governance. In the Asia and the Pacific region, it is most prominent in crisis prevention and recovery, and in energy and the environment. In Latin America, the priority areas for South-South cooperation are in crisis prevention and recovery, and in support to democratic governance.

27. UNDP has supported the development of partnerships and other mechanisms that bring together southern centres of excellence, the private sector and civil society organizations, in order to foster the implementation of South-South action plans in priority areas such as science capacity-building, technology transfer, remittances and creative industries. UNDP is developing a programme that links technology exchange centres in middle-income countries with their counterparts in poorer countries, particularly in Africa. UNDP is also supporting the sharing of southern development knowledge and increasing the visibility of southern experts and institutions throughout UNDP and in the UNDG office through the use of its internet-based information system, the Web of Information for Development, known as WIDE.

28. In response to the 2004 tsunami, UNDP launched a South-South grants facility that enables countries to pool resources to quickly fund short-term, community-based recovery efforts. Brazil, India and South Africa have established a fund in UNDP that supports efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The Second South Summit (Doha, June 2005) established the South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance.

29. UNFPA is committed to South-South cooperation within the framework of capacity development, in accordance with the UNDG position statement. In line with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the outcomes of the other major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, UNFPA work in South-South cooperation in 2005 and 2006 has supported the development of census and population surveys, the planning and delivery capacity for reproductive health services, women's empowerment and the application of a 'culture lens' to national population programmes.

30. Four patterns of population assistance within South-South cooperation activities are discernible. The first pattern relates to bilateral support for countries in similar stages of development, within the same region or subregion. Often taking the form of study tours, this type of South-South activity has been implemented in African countries, particularly in West Africa, and to a lesser extent in East Africa, as well as in South Asia and South-East Asia. The second pattern relies on regional 'pivot' countries that have region-specific experience in planning and delivering population programmes, and that provide technical assistance to other countries in the region and subregion. Brazil, Egypt, India, Senegal, Thailand and Tunisia often provide this type of technical assistance. Also noteworthy are the recently established reproductive health networks in East Africa and in West Africa, and the Mediterranean network on gender-based violence.

31. The third pattern of South-South cooperation involves countries such as Brazil, China and India that provide support beyond their regions in research and analysis, training and the development of new products. Finally, there are South-South cooperation modalities that are culture-centred, including those among Muslim countries that support each other's efforts to foster commitment to a rights-based approach to reproductive health service delivery and gender equality.

Transition from relief to development

32. In order to strengthen coordination arrangements for transitions from relief to development, the UNDG and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have jointly reviewed coordination practices in the recovery phase of crises or disasters and have established joint modalities to provide transition support. As in the tsunami-affected regions, the United Nations has established joint United Nations offices or offices of the resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator in Pakistan, Sudan and other countries. UNDP has assisted United Nations country teams in preparing draft transitional strategies that delineate United Nations support for recovery and reconstruction plans, such as those in Lebanon and Pakistan. OCHA has agreed to permit UNDP and other United Nations organizations to include early recovery activities and resource requirements for recovery coordination in the consolidated appeals processes.

33. UNDP continued to develop modalities for joint programming with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations in areas such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and the rule of law. In 2006, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDP jointly established the first post-peacekeeping United Nations integrated office – in Sierra Leone – which is designed to ensure the most effective return to development in a post-crisis situation. The United Nations will establish a similar office in Burundi in 2007.

34. As the lead agency for the early recovery cluster in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP leads efforts to strengthen the capacity of United Nations resident coordinators/humanitarian coordinators to initiate early recovery activities. OCHA put into practice the cluster approach, which involves multi-agency collaboration, in the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. This approach is viewed as the way forward.

Evaluation of operational activities for development

35. The new UNDP evaluation policy that the Executive Board approved at its annual session 2006 seeks to establish a common institutional basis for the UNDP evaluation function, thereby increasing the transparency, coherence and efficiency of evaluation in generating and using evaluative knowledge for organizational learning and in supporting accountability. The policy affirms the UNDP commitment to human development and human rights, national ownership and managing for development results.

36. UNDP is the chair of the United Nations evaluation group that brings together the professional units and individuals responsible for evaluation within the United Nations system. Through the United Nations evaluation group, UNDP has taken the lead in the first country-led, country-level joint evaluation with the Government of South Africa, seeking to evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of the United Nations system in South Africa over the past decade. It is also leading the study on ways to evaluate the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

37. In 2006, the UNDP Evaluation Office published six evaluations of country-level assessments of development results in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Honduras, Montenegro, Serbia and Syria. UNDP will complete five more evaluations by the end of 2006. In addition, UNDP completed two strategic evaluations on gender mainstreaming in UNDP and on the UNDP role in and contribution to the HIV/AIDS response in Ethiopia and in Southern Africa. In 2006, UNDP will complete five more strategic evaluations on a range of activities, including UNDP work in conflict-affected countries, governance-policy linkages and the national human development report system.

38. In September 2005, UNFPA conducted – for technical advisers, UNFPA representatives and other programme staff in West Africa – a subregional dialogue on results-based monitoring and evaluation in the context of United Nations reform. This resulted in a medium-term action plan to strengthen results-based monitoring and evaluation in country offices and among national counterparts. In 2006, UNFPA focused on the performance assessment of offices through oversight missions undertaken by evaluators and auditors. UNFPA assessed the performance of eight country offices, one UNFPA Country Technical Services Team and the Humanitarian Response Unit at headquarters on the relevance of UNFPA assistance and quality issues related to monitoring and evaluation systems.

39. UNFPA presented to the annual session 2006 of the Executive Board the results of its evaluation of quality assessment, conducted in 2005. UNFPA developed a follow-up action plan that included updating the programme policies and procedures manual, developing additional guidance, such as a new set of minimum evaluation standards, and improving the linkage between evaluation and knowledge sharing.

B. Follow-up to international conferences and the Millennium Development Goals

40. A key focus for UNFPA and UNDP in 2006 was to continue consultations in the UNDG and in the United Nations country teams to promote United Nations reform as outlined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The emphasis is on achieving 'one United Nations' as a way to enhance programme results and accountability and to promote capacity development and ownership of national development strategies to achieve the international development goals. The UNDG is currently implementing its 2006-2008 action plan on the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit. The plan addresses the scaling up of actions and results to help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals, to reduce risks and to preserve the results achieved thus far.

41. UNDP, in partnership with the UNDG, United Nations organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions and other development partners, has launched a Millennium Development Goal support initiative to assist countries in preparing Millennium Development Goal-based national development strategies. The initiative has three dimensions: (a) Millennium Development Goal diagnostics and investment planning; (b) widening policy options; and (c) strengthening national capacities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. While the primary focus is on Africa, the initiative will also be rolled out in priority countries in other regions. By 2007, the initiative is expected to cover 60 countries.

42. During the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, UNFPA successfully advocated and supported the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015 and to strengthen policy and programme linkages between HIV/AIDS and reproductive health in resolution 50/2 on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS. In May/June 2006, UNFPA participated in the High-level Meeting on AIDS and in the comprehensive review of the progress achieved in realizing the targets set out in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, which the General Assembly adopted at its twenty-sixth special session in June 2001. UNFPA inputs in the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the meeting stressed the linkages between HIV/AIDS and reproductive health.

43. In August 2006, the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities included, as advocated by UNFPA, sexual and reproductive health in the draft International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the first time this issue had been included in an international human rights instrument.

44. Maternal heath remains a priority pillar for UNFPA. In cooperation with the Government of Belgium and the European Commission, UNFPA organized the International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond (Brussels, 21-23 June 2006). The UNFPA Campaign to End Fistula is now active in 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Arab region – a remarkable achievement in a short time. In September 2006, in Maputo, Mozambique, UNFPA, along with the Government of Mozambique, the African Union and the European Commission, supported the special session of the African Union Ministers of Health, which focused on scaling up sexual and reproductive health services throughout Africa to achieve the goal of universal access to reproductive health. UNFPA released its 2006 *State of World Population* report, which focused on women and international migration, and its special youth edition, *Moving Young*, to coincide with the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006. Both publications contributed to raising awareness and building global consensus on the women-and-youth dimensions of the problem.

45. UNFPA continues to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations, both globally and at the country level, to implement the international development goals. UNFPA has supported the participation of its non-governmental organization (NGO) partners in various civil society hearings in the General Assembly. The 2006 global consultation between NGOs and UNFPA served as a mechanism to exchange information and strengthen communications on emerging ICPD issues. Partnerships with civil society focus on knowledge sharing and capacity-building at local, national and global levels. The UNDG is currently promoting two initiatives as a follow-up to the Report of the Secretary-General in response to the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations (A/59/354). These initiatives, which UNFPA supports, include the identification by all United Nations country teams of civil society focal points and the creation of a trust fund to strengthen partnerships with civil society at the country level.

II. UNDP section

A. Implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review

Funding for operational activities for development of the United Nations system

46. Total UNDP resources reached $4.8 billion in 2005, up from $4.1 billion in 2004. This represents an increase in nominal terms of $700 million or 17 per cent over 2004. When adjusted for price changes and exchange rate fluctuations, the real increase is about $460 million or 11 per cent. UNDP regular resources increased for the fifth consecutive year after reversing their six-year downward trend in 2001. Compared to 2004, income to regular resources grew nominally by 10 per cent to $921 million or by approximately 7 per cent in real terms. For the first time in a decade, gross regular resources surpassed the level of $900 million and thus exceeded the 2004-2007 UNDP MYFF interim target set for 2005. Thirteen members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) increased their core contributions in local currency terms to UNDP regular resources – four by more than 10 per cent and three by 20 per cent or more in nominal terms.

47. This level of contributions is consistent with the objectives set forth in the 2004-2007 UNDP MYFF. It also signals renewed support from Member States for a United Nations development arm that benefits from adequate and predictable funding. However, UNDP continues to rely heavily on a limited number of donors. The top ten donors provided about 82 per cent of regular resources in 2005. While regular resources income remained volatile with respect to exchange rate fluctuations, adherence to multi-year funding mechanisms is enhancing income predictability. Nine members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee have made multi-year contribution commitments.

48. Other (non-core) resources experienced a higher growth than regular resources in 2005. Non-core or earmarked contributions from bilateral donor governments slightly exceeded $1 billion. Nearly all OECD Development Assistance Committee donors are active in co-financing UNDP programmes. Non-core resources entrusted to UNDP by non-bilateral partners, such as the European Commission, the World Bank and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria exceeded $1.4 billion. Local resources, channelled through UNDP by programme country governments and other local partners to support their own national development, amounted to $1.1 billion. As aid mechanisms available at the country level diversify and multiply, UNDP is increasingly being called upon to support governments in obtaining, directing and managing different types of funding in accordance with national priorities.

Crisis prevention and recovery

49. Through the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP supports Member States in: (a) achieving a peaceful and lasting management of conflicts and disputes, before the emergence of violence; (b) reducing risks posed by natural disasters; (c) achieving lasting recovery from violent conflict; and (d) achieving swift recovery from the impact of natural disasters. To better accomplish this, the Bureau designed a five-year strategy for the period 2007-2011, following extensive consultations with development partners. A key element of this strategy is the active promotion of women as central partners in crisis prevention and recovery efforts.

Conflict prevention

50. In order to assist Member States in building their capacity to manage conflicts, UNDP provided assistance in four areas in 2005-2006:

(a) Mainstreaming conflict analysis into development plans and programmes. Burundi, Colombia, Fiji and Indonesia have received such support.

(b) Building indigenous mediation capacity through credible modern and traditional governmental and civil society institutions and processes. Beneficiaries include the ethnic relations commission in Guyana, the political parties' registration commission in Sierra Leone, the newly established national peace council in Ghana and similar initiatives in Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

(c) Building consensus on divisive social and economic issues. UNDP provided support for national and civic dialogue initiatives in Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guyana, Lesotho, Mauritania and Togo, among others.

(d) Building an infrastructure for peace within which local disputes over land, resources, religion or ethnicity, chieftaincy succession and elections can be identified and addressed before they lead to violent conflict. In this regard, UNDP has supported initiatives in Ghana, Guyana, the Niger Delta, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

51. In 2005 and 2006, UNDP continued to provide much of this assistance: (a) in collaboration with other United Nations system partners, especially with the Departments of Political Affairs and Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations; and (b) in the context of systematic efforts to strengthen the United Nations Interdepartmental Framework for Coordination on Early Warning and Preventive Action, an internal United Nations mechanism to coordinate preventive action.

Post-conflict recovery

52. UNDP support for post-conflict recovery focuses on early recovery and on longer-term post-conflict peacebuilding. In 2005 and 2006, UNDP supported Member States in the following areas:

(a) Transitional recovery. UNDP implemented systematic and large-scale efforts to generate economic livelihoods and opportunities for communities, especially for internally displaced persons and refugees, in the following countries: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda. UNDP also supported an innovative joint effort by Colombia and Ecuador to address the needs of conflict-affected communities along their shared border.

(b) Security sector reform and transitional justice. UNDP supported: (i) access to justice, especially for rural communities, in Haiti, Sierra Leone and Sudan; (ii) the reform and strengthening of the penal system in Haiti and Sierra Leone; (iii) multi-stakeholder dialogues on the reform of the security sector in Haiti and Sudan, and on transitional justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and (iv) the strengthening of police capabilities for conflict management and community policing in Albania and Sierra Leone.

(c) Small arms reduction, disarmament and demobilization. UNDP efforts targeted the perceptions of insecurity and the factors that fuel the demand for weapons. Beneficiaries of UNDP support in 2005-2006 included Afghanistan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Haiti, Liberia and Sudan.

(d) Mine action. UNDP has placed particular emphasis on developing joint methods with other United Nations partners, especially the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, for mine action in post-conflict situations. The joint mine action centre established in Sudan is an important example. In 2005-2006, UNDP provided technical and advisory services to more than 30 mine-affected countries. A central focus of UNDP support has been to strengthen South-South cooperation on this issue, including through the mine action exchange programme.

(e) Special initiatives for countries in transition. In 2006, UNDP took systematic steps to strengthen its 'surge' capacity – the ability to rapidly support its country offices in providing prompt and effective responses to early recovery needs.

Natural disaster risk reduction

53. UNDP recently launched a global initiative to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development programming. The initiative focuses on producing tools and increasing programme capacities to include disaster concerns in United Nations as well as UNDP development planning processes. Recognizing the importance of regional and subregional collaboration in reducing disaster risks, UNDP launched programmes in Africa, the Caribbean and Central Asia in 2005 and 2006 to assist regional organizations and to develop regional frameworks, in order to better address risks such as droughts and hurricanes.

Natural disaster recovery

54. In addition to coordinating and directly implementing important aspects of the international response to the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, UNDP continued to provide support in 2005 and 2006 to the tsunami-affected countries, especially Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The international community has recognized the need for more comprehensive and predictable approaches in post-disaster recovery. To address this need, UNDP, with the support of Japan and other partners, launched in 2005 the International Recovery Platform to increase global capacity for post-disaster recovery planning.

B. Strategic partnerships, including cooperation with the World Bank

55. UNDP has worked extensively with United Nations partner organizations to strengthen existing partnerships and to develop new ones. UNDP continues to work closely with the World Bank on a wide range of issues. In 2006, UNDP and the World Bank set up a joint task force on scaling up support for the Millennium Development Goals as a basis for future collaborative work. The task force produced a paper and an agenda for action at the third meeting of the OECD Development Assistance Committee and the World Bank on scaling up for results (June 2006). UNDP continues to widen and strengthen its partnerships with the private sector, civil society and foundations.

III. UNFPA section

A. Implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review

Funding for operational activities for development of the United Nations system

56. In 2006, regular resources are expected to reach $360 million, a 3 per cent increase compared to 2005. This growth is due primarily to increases in local currency pledges from Australia, Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Spain and Sweden. As of 1 September 2006, 140 countries had contributed $215.4 million to regular resources. In 2005, 172 countries made pledges to UNFPA; a similar number is expected for 2006. UNFPA has received 64 multi-year pledges so far, up from 55 in 2005.

57. In 2005, income to other resources was provided through co-financing arrangements ($157.7 million) and other arrangements ($36.1 million), including the junior professional officer programme and third-party procurement services. Co-financing projections for 2006 so far indicate a lower income compared to 2005, which included generous contributions in response to the 2004 tsunami and the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan.

Country-level capacity of the United Nations system and regional support

58. As reported last year, UNFPA is pursuing its regionalization strategy in the context of United Nations reform efforts. UNFPA believes that this process offers an opportunity to further strengthen the capacity of country offices to support the needs of programme countries. The UNFPA Technical Advisory Programme continues to support capacity-building at country and regional levels and has been instrumental in supporting country office implementation of United Nations reform processes.

B. Strategic partnerships, including cooperation with the World Bank

59. UNFPA collaborates closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNIFEM within the framework of the UNFPA strategic partnerships programme. The aim of the strategic partnerships programme is to provide coordinated technical assistance to countries in priority areas. UNFPA works with WHO to improve sexual and reproductive health through the adoption of evidence-based guidelines that are updated regularly to reflect international scientific consensus. In June 2006, UNFPA and WHO issued a joint communiqué that identified a number of priority areas for cooperation in sexual and reproductive health. With UNIFEM, the initial aim is to strengthen national capacity in gender-responsive budgeting.

60. Over the past months, UNFPA and the World Bank have revived the World Bank-UNFPA joint action plan and have identified concrete steps and areas of collaboration. To strengthen this collaboration, UNFPA has published an action guide on contributing to national poverty reduction strategies and is planning to organize a workshop with the World Bank on how to mainstream youth issues into poverty reduction strategies.

IV. Joint UNDP/UNFPA recommendation

61. The Executive Board may wish to take note of this report (E/2007/5) and transmit it to the Economic and Social Council, together with the comments and guidance provided by delegations at the present session.